Harwich
Port Sanitary Authority.

The Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR 1920.

WATSON, PRINTER, 13, CHURCH STREET, HARWICH.

To The Chairman and Members of the Harwich Port Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the following as my Annual Report for the year 1920:

I. During the year Five Hundred and Nineteen Inspections have been made on all classes of Shipping entering the Port of Harwich, of these, Four Hundred and Forty-seven Inspections were made on Home Trading Vessels. These Vessels consist mainly of Steamships belonging to the Great Eastern Railway and the United Steamship Co., Denmark, which trade between Parkeston Quay and the Hook of Holland, Antwerp. Rotterdam, and Denmark. They were engaged in carrying Passengers, General Cargo and Dairy Produce These Vessels have all arrived with "Clean Bills of Health," The respective number of Crew carried is about forty hands, and the certified accommodation on these Vessels has been all that could be desired. The Sanitary arrangements are of modern type and have been worked satisfactorily.

II. Five Inspections were made of Foreign arrivals carrying timber from British Columbia, Algeria, and North Sweden, two of these were French and two Swedish Steamers. One was a Swedish three masted Schooner. All these Vessels arrived with "Clean Bills of Health," and their accommodation for Crew and Sanitary condition were quite satisfactory.

III. A certain number of smaller home trading Vessels carrying a Crew of eight or ten men, and bringing cargoes of broken granite from Belgium, France and Channel Islands have been inspected. Their Sanitary condition was found to be satisfactory.

IV. In addition to the ships already mentioned, the Port Inspector reports Sixty-seven Inspections on Coastwise Vessels. These include Colliers, Barges, Steam Tugs, and Fishing Boats. The condition of these Vessels was found to be satisfactory.

Importation of Infectious Disease.

No case of Infectious Disease has been brought into the Port Sanitary District by any of the ships trading with the Port of Harwich.

One case of Small Pox occurred in a man in the Borough of Harwich, and according to a special agreement with the Council of the Borough, the patient was removed to the Hospital Ship "HOPE" on Dec. 25th, 1920. He has since been discharged cured and the Hospital Ship has been thoroughly disinfected. No further cases of Small Pox have occurred in the Borough. With regard to the facilities for preventing the importation and spread of disease all Alien passengers and transmigrants coming from an infected area are medically examined by myself or my deputy.

Cleansing Stations.

The Port Sanitary Authority is at present in negotiation with the Council of the Borough of Harwich for the use of their Cleansing Station for dealing with verminous persons and their belongings. This Cleansing Station has two rooms and a bathroom, and there is a Thresh Disinfector in good working order attached. It is within easy distance of the Quay. During the year it has not been necessary to cleanse or disinfect any person.

Venereal Disease.

There is no great prevalence of Venereal Disease at the Port. There is a well equipped Venereal Clinic at Ipswich (half an hour's distance away by train) where infected persons can attend. This fact is advertised by the distribution of leaflets and by posting of bills in the lavatories, &c.

Rat Destruction.

The Port Sanitary Inspector has made periodic inspections during the year of all ships entering the Port with a view to the destruction of Rats. He reports that all the ships he has inspected have been very free of Rats, and no special measures apart from the use of the "Nipper" Break Back Trap have been required.

Two Rats caught during his inspections were sent to the Ministry of Health for Microscopical and Bacteriological examination. In both cases negative results were returned.

Medical Inspection of Aliens.

The Medical Inspection of Aliens under the Aliens Order, 1920, began on 1st April, 1920.

There are fifteen regular Passenger Steamers arriving at the Port each week. Twelve of these belong to the Great Eastern Railway Co, these run between Harwich and Antwerp and the Hook of Holland.

Three belong to the United Steamship Co., of Denmark, and they bring Passengers from Esbjerg, in Denmark.

During the Summer there is, in addition to the above, one Swedish Steamer running between Harwich and Gothenburg, in Sweden

The Great Eastern Railway Co. have put at my disposal a well lighted and well heated room for the Medical Inspection of Aliens. This room has all the facilities one could require, including a bath and lavatory accommodation. Most of the Medical Inspections are carried out in this room. On the Danish and Swedish Boats however, a cabin on board ship is used for this purpose. A Nurse is always present during the Inspection of any Female Alien Passenger. As a rule only those Alien Passengers are Medically Examined who are likely to stay three weeks or longer in the United Kingdom, but any Alien passenger and all transmigrants coming from an infected area are carefully examined to prevent the importation of infectious disease.

Any doubtful cases transferred for an opinion by the Chief Immigration Officer is always given careful consideration

During the year, i.e. from April 1st to December 31st, 1920, there have been 35,659 Alien Passengers entering the Port of Harwich. Of these 3,994 have been specially examined. Three of these have been refused to land on Medical grounds, one for scabies, one for spiral curvature and one for gonorrhœa. The great majority of Alien passengers entering the Port and intending to make a prolonged stay in England, during the period under review, have been of good physique and in sound health.

Our relations with the Chief Immigration Officer and other Immigration Officers have been most cordial and I have always found them most helpful and considerate.

I attach herewith the Food Inspector's Report.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

G. FORD PORTER,

Medical Officer of Health, Port of Harwich.

To The Chairman and Members of the Harwich Port Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you the Annual Report upon the work done under the Foreign Meat and Food Regulations for the year 1920.

The period of twelve months covered by the Report shows a large increase in the Shipping and also in the amount of Foodstuffs landed here.

The number of Vessels arriving at Parkeston Quay with Foodstuffs was 800, as against 298 in 1919. The number of Vessels discharging at Parkeston Quay is very nearly equal to pre-war, and no doubt by the end of this year the number will have exceeded that total.

The seizures number 1,001, amounting to 135,969 lbs.

A fair number of Calves arrived in the Spring, otherwise no fresh meat was consigned to this Port until the middle of September, when Pork and Mutton started to come from Denmark, and towards the end of the same month consignments of Mutton came from Holland; but it was not until Nov. 25th, that the first consignment of Dutch Pork was sent, yet by the Report you will see the number of Pigs and Sheep received up to the end of December was 17,432 Pigs, and 53,151 Sheep, which shows how quickly the trade increased.

The import of Vegetables has increased about 150 per cent. over 1914. The total received in that year was 426,924, and in 1920, 1,042,347 packages, and out of this large number only 45 packages were found in a condition that warranted their seizure.

The Fruit imports show an increase of 50 per cent over 1914, amounting to 418,792 baskets and packages, of this number 817 packages were seized. The inspection under the American Mildew Order entailed large amount of extra work.

A large increase in imported Fish is to be noticed, quite 25 per cent. above any pre-war year. The total consignments amounting to 229,307 cases, and of these 555 cases were seized.

The imports of the Port generally shows a return of pre-war consignments of Foodstuffs.

Dr Spencer Low, Ministry of Health, paid a visit of inspection in November. He stated the inspection of Foodstuffs was satisfactory, but that there was too much work for one Inspector. This matter I reported to the Joint Board, and after consideration it was decided to advertise for an Assistant Inspector. On December 17th, Mr. N. Bastable, of Langley, was appointed the Assistant Inspector, and to begin his duties on February 1st, 1921.

In November, Dr. Morkeberg, the Chief Veterinary Inspector of Denmark arrived at this Port, and with Mr. H. Faber, the Danish Agricultural Commissioner, inspected six sides of Beef which had been seized here for diseased. They agreed as to the condition of the sides. After discussing several points with regards to Meat Inspection here, they left for London and paid several visits to the Ministry of Health where they discussed the whole question of inspection of Danish Meat On Dr. Morkeberg returning to Parkeston Quay to sail for Esbjerg, he saw me and stated he hoped there would be no further complaints regarding the Danish Inspection of Meat and Offal, and he thought the whole trouble was due to their Inspectors having had no export Meat to examine owing to the War.

During the period under review the trade of the Port has been affected by the Strike of Dutch Quay Labourers, the Strike of Danish Seamen and Firemen, and also by the Coal Strike in this Country, otherwise this Report would have shown a larger increase in Foodstuffs than it does.

Dr. Ford Porter, Medical Officer of Health, has been notified of anything requiring his attentions.

I append a List of Seizures.

I am Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHAS. S. BROOKES,

Food Inspector.

LIST OF SEIZURES FOR 1920.

NATURE.	Number of Carcases and Packages.	Number Inspected.	Number Seized.	Cause of Seizure.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
PIGS' Carcases	17,432	2,860	24	Diseased	24	3	16
"	"	"	4	F. Meat C. II.	4	2	17
Gammons removed ...	"	"	8	Abscesses.	1		20
" " ...	"	"	18	Fractures	2	2	24
CALVES' Carcases	24,288	3,767	48	Immature	17		15
"	"	"	4	Diseased	2	3	17
Legs removed	"	"	3	Fractures			19
SHEEP Carcases	53,151	5,424	2	Diseased	1		8
Legs removed	"	"	3	Fractures		1	10
BEEF, Sides	383	241	18	Diseased	46	3	
OFFAL, Packages							
PIGS' Plucks			33	Diseased			
Livers			1	"			
Lungs			37	"	4	2	20
Heads			7	"			
Kidneys			12	"			
PIGS' Plucks			25	Unsound			
Lungs			9	"	2	1	10
Heads			2	"			
CALVES' Plucks			22	Diseased			
Livers			37	"	3	2	8
Lungs			22	"			
CALVES' Plucks			765	Unsound			
Livers	7,187	3,709	9	"			
Lungs			10	"	49	2	11
Heads			11	"			
Tongues			46	"			
SHEEP Plucks			158	Diseased			
Livers			1,179	"	49	3	9
Lungs			25	"			
SHEEP Plucks			619	Unsound.			
Livers			29	"			
Lungs			194	"	96	2	27
Kidneys			84	"			
Heads			1,012	"			

List of Seizures for 1920.—*continued.*

NATURE.	Number of Carcases and Packages.	Number Inspected.	Number Seized.	Cause of Seizure.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
OX Kidneys			6	Unsound			9
ROUGH FATS			3 casks	,,	6		
VEGETABLES, Packages ...							
Tomatoes	1,042,347	89 588	36 packages	Unsound	7		24
Cucumbers			9 do.	,,			
FRUIT, Packages							
Oranges			60 cases	Unsound	58		
Cherries			1 basket	,,		1	
Gooseberries			90 bags	American Mildew	49	3	10
,, ...			139 bags	Unsound	68	3	
Black Currants... ...	418,792	50,390	732 baskets	,,	183	2	
Red Currants			33 ,,	,,	5	1	4
Strawberries			23 ,,	,,	1	3	22
Plums			14 ,,	,,	3	2	
Pears			4 ,,	,,	,,	2	12
Apples			11 barrels	,,	4	3	
BACON, Sides	771,736	21,000	*NIL*	,,			
POULTRY, Cases	4,881	848	5 birds	,,			7
RABBITS, Cases	2,152	607	89 rabbits	Diseased	2		7
,, ,, ...	,,	,,	283 and 50 cases	Unsound	57	2	9
FISH, Plaice			160 cases	,,	114	3	14
Sprats			13 barrels	,,	41	2	
Roes			77 cases	,,	33		
Shrimps			1 basket	,,		2	
Haddock...			66 cases	,,	47	2	14
Flounders	229,307	28,360	5 ,,	,,	2	2	
Cod			12 ,,	,,	9	2	
Herring			6 cases and loose	,,	11	3	26
Sand Dabs			201 cases	,,	166	1	
Roker			7 ,,	,,	6	2	
FISH, Freshwater			7 baskets	,,	8		
BUTTER, Casks	212,049	*NO RECORD.*	*NIL*				
EGGS, Cases	124,243		44 eggs	Unsound			3

List of Seizures for 1920.—*continued.*

NATURE.	Number of Carcases and Packages.	Number Inspected.	Number Seized.	Cause of Seizure.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
MARGARINE, Cases ...	692,616	NO RECORD.	*NIL*				
CHEESE, Cases	21,095		,,				
LARD, Cases	4,812		,,				
YEAST, Baskets	63,468	4,453	,,				
PRESERVES, Cases							
Fish Paste, Cases ...			2 cases	Unsound			
Tomatoes, Cases ...			66 tins	,,			
Fruit Pulp, Cases ...	11,587	3,763	2 cases and 12 tins	,,	12	1	6
Prunes, Cases			30 boxes	,,			
Jam, Cases			4 jars	,,			
MILK POWDER, Cases ...	2,194	5 per cent.	*NIL*				
CONDENSED MILK, Cases	6,974		136 tins	,,	1		26
CREAM, Cases	3,485		20 ,,	,,			20
STERILIZED MILK, Churns	934		*NIL*				
CHOCOLATE & COCOA...	58,368	2 per cent, unless in bad condition, then whole consignment.	,,				
SUGAR, Sacks	670		,,				
TEA, Cases	72		5 lbs.	Damaged			5
RICE, Bags, ...	50		*NIL*				
CORN & POLLARDS, Bags	87,213		,,				
POTATO FLOUR, Bags ...	830		,,				
MUSTARD	2,399		,,				
				TOTAL ...	1,214	0	1

1,001 Seizures = 60 Tons, 14 Cwts. 0 Qrs. 1 Lb.

C. S. BROOKES,

Food Inspector,

PORT OF HARWICH,

January 11th, 1921.

Amount of Shipping Entering the Harwich Port Sanitary District, 1920.

		Number.	Tonnage.	Number Inspected.		Number Reported to be Defective.	Number of Orders Issued.
				By Medical Officer.	By Inspector of Nuisances.		
Foreign	Steamers	891	690,058	50	434	11	—
	Sailing	25	2,083	3	18	—	—
	Fishing	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total Foreign	916	692,141	53	452	11	—
Coastwise	Steamers	148	35,748	5	30	3	—
	Sailing	227	13,485	5	34	9	—
	Fishing	3	—	—	3	—	—
	Total Coastwise ...	378	49,233	10	67	12	—
Total Foreign and Coastwise		1,294	741,374	63	519	23	—

T. J. BELL,
Port Sanitary Inspector.